



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Aging and Adult Services

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Dennis W. Streets, Director
919-733-3983

August 6, 2008

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

ATTENTION: Adult Protective Services Supervisors

SUBJECT: ASSESSING AN ADULT'S CAPACITY TO CONSENT

The Division of Aging and Adult Services is pleased to announce the availability of a one-day workshop entitled, *Assessing An Adult's Capacity To Consent*. It will be offered in two locations: Guilford County DSS in Greensboro on December 9, 2008, and Person County DSS in Roxboro on April 2, 2009.

The workshop will provide participants an excellent opportunity to learn about and discuss mental capacity as it relates to Adult Protective Services (APS). Mental capacity will be defined and the differences and similarities between mental capacity and mental competence will be discussed. Lecture and small group discussion will be used to examine the degrees and components of mental capacity. Principles for determining whether an adult has or lacks capacity to consent to protective services will be explored, including using APS evaluation data to assist with making a decision about capacity to consent. Participants will learn the importance of obtaining help, when necessary, in making a capacity decision, and the importance of accurately and thoroughly documenting how the decision was reached.

Social workers and supervisors with responsibility for evaluating and planning service interventions in APS cases will benefit from attending this workshop. The workshop is being offered as an advanced level training (beyond the APS Basic Skills Training) for APS staff. **All participants should have completed both Modules I and II of the *Adult Protective Services Basic Skills Training* before attending this workshop. Please bring your APS Manual, which can be found at <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/doa/aps/man/>.**

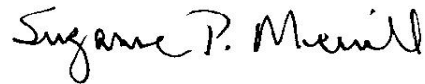
A maximum of thirty participants will be accepted at each of the training sites. **Please complete registration information at least 2 weeks in advance of the chosen event. Registration is to be completed online at <http://www.ncswLearn.org>.**

Dear County Director
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Participants can expect to receive a confirmation letter and specific information about the training site and local lodging information after registering. Each workshop **starts promptly at 9:00 a.m.** and will **end by 4:00 p.m.** **Check-in is at 8:30 a.m.** **There will be no on-site registration.** Refreshments will not be provided; however, participants are welcome to bring their own drinks and snacks.

If you need additional information or have questions regarding the content of the workshops, please contact Sarah Lugar at (919) 733-3818, or your Adult Programs Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne P. Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'M'.

Suzanne P. Merrill, Chief
Adult Services Section

SPM/sel

AFS-16-2008